

**REMARKS/DISCUSSION:**

This Amendment B is being filed along with a Request for Continuing Examination and within three months after the shortened statutory period for response that ended on December 13, 2005. Accordingly, a Petition for a Three-Month Extension of Time is attached hereto.

By this Amendment B, claims 20-27 are pending in this application. Claims 1-19 have been canceled.

Amendment and/or cancellation of certain claims is not to be construed as a dedication to the public of any of the subject matter of the claims previously presented. Further, Applicant(s) reserves the right to prosecute the subject matter of such claims in continuation and/or divisional applications.

Applicant has carefully studied the outstanding Office Action. This Amendment is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

**Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112**

Claim 19 stands rejected as being indefinite.

**Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)**

Claims 9-17 stand rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,925,064 to Meyers.

Claims 9, 10, 12, 13, and 15 stand rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,944,729 to Blake.

Claims 9-13 and 15 stand rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,257,406 to Schenk.

Claims 9-15 stand rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,569,300 to Redmon.

Claims 9-15 stand rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,746,471 to Mortier.

Claims 9-15 stand rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,176,696 to Saunders.

Claims 9-12 stand rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,146,139 to Harrison.

Claims 9-19 have been canceled in favor of new claims 20-27. None of the cited referenced disclose or suggest separately or in combination: i) first and second lever arms [that] interface in an overlapping relationship, and the lever arms in combination form a substantially U-shaped structure; and ii) that defines an aperture for slidably receiving the distal end of a finger as not recited in claim 20 (emphasis added).

No reference discloses a substantially U-shaped structure that defines an aperture that receives a finger and the U-shaped structure is formed by the combination of a first lever and second lever. Although Meyers may arguably show a U-shaped structure, such U-shaped structure is not formed by the combination of a first and second lever.<sup>1</sup>

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 11 and 16-19 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Blake '729 in view of Meyers '064 and U.S. Patent no. 5,222,973.

<sup>1</sup> In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner states that Meyers comprises two u-shaped levers 30 and 42. Applicants respectfully disagree that first, the elements 30 and 42 are u-shaped, and second, that element 30 is a lever.

Claims 18 and 19 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Meyers '064 in view of Sharpe '973.

Based on the previous discussion, Blake, Meyers and Sharpe neither disclose separately or in combination the Beaupre nor Huitema, alone or in combination, the elements now claimed in claims 20-27. Reconsideration is requested.

#### Conclusion

Applicant submits that in view of the discussion, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 112, 102(b) and 103 have been overcome and that the invention is now patentable over the cited prior. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider all rejections and pass this case to issue.

Should any minor points remain prior to issuance of a Notice of Allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, which may be required to Account No. 10-0750/END-5017/VEK.

Respectfully submitted,

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